

DRAFT – DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE

Q&A's for Bayview Hunters Pt Mtg

**Q. I'm from the press, and I have questions.**

A. This is a public meeting and therefore open to anyone to attend. We will be happy to answer some of your questions now and to stay after the meeting to answer more questions as long as you like. [If the press asks so many questions that are not of interest to the community and it takes up too much time] The purpose of this meeting, however, is to hear from community residents about their technical assistance needs. Out of respect for the participants who came here for that purpose, we'd like to make sure that we hear from community residents tonight.

**Q. I want to videotape this meeting**

A. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from community residents about their technical assistance needs. Out of respect for the participants who came here for that purpose, I'd like to ask them if they feel comfortable being on camera. If they agree, then you can videotape.

**Q. Tetra Tech contractors falsified radiation data. How can you trust anything they tell you?**

A. EPA trusts our rigorous oversight and review process that has many layers of safeguards. The Navy's own internal routine quality control system caught this issue right away before the information even came to any Agency. They found the errors/mistakes, reported them, and corrected them. This shows the system is working. Tetra Tech managers and staff have taken a number of actions to address the situation. They have reviewed 70,000 samples going back to 2005 to look for any signs of similar problems. Where they saw potential issues, they resampled. They have put in new procedures to prevent this problem from happening again. For example, they have retrained staff and increased scrutiny in the field.

**Q. How can we trust that the radiation cleanup is protective?**

A. Cleanup decisions are only being made using the data that has been either reviewed or resampled. In addition, two independent methods of monitoring radiation are in place. The State Department of Public Health does its own independent analysis of the Navy's samples and it also takes confirmation samples and uses its independent laboratory to test radiation samples to confirm the protectiveness of the cleanup. We are continuing to review the resampled data from Tetra Tech as it comes in. We will not approve any cleanup as complete until we are satisfied.

**Q. Will EPA punish Tetra Tech and the Navy?**

A. Tetra Tech is the Navy's contractor. EPA's oversight role is with the Navy. As you can see from the public Tetra Tech investigation report, Tetra Tech has not renewed contracts for 3 employees involved in this matter. It also docked a month's pay from two supervisors. EPA's focus is on compliance and making sure that the cleanup is protective. Based on our discussions with the Navy and our review of the report Tetra Tech submitted to the Navy, the Navy and their contractor Tetra Tech are taking effective action to make sure this problem does not happen again. We are still evaluating the situation.

**Q. Since we can't trust these contractors, have they let through radioactive dust contaminating our neighborhood?**

A. The Shipyard has multiple layers of checks to make sure you are protected. For example, trucks go through a radiation screening portal before they can leave the Base. If the levels of radiation are high enough to trigger an alarm, then the truck must go back and secure any waste material to prevent exposure to the public. In addition, a staff person is stationed at that monitor to make sure that the driver covers the trucks and displays placards on four sides of it before the driver can get the paperwork it needs to take its load.

**Q. Will EPA fire Tetra Tech? Why did Tetra Tech get this contract again? Isn't that rewarding bad behavior?**

A. EPA has a federal oversight relationship with the Navy for this cleanup. Tetra Tech is a contractor for the Navy, and it is the Navy's responsibility to manage its contractors through its own contracting process. This includes an evaluation process. I suggest that you contact the Navy directly to address this internal procedure. Please call Thomas Macchiarella at 619-532-0987.

**Q. Shouldn't you take away Tetra Tech's license?**

A. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the California Department of Public Health oversee the licensing of radiation cleanup service providers. They are aware of this issue and they are following the normal procedures for followup. For more information related to Tetra Tech's license, contact Diane Scenci at 610-337-5330.

**Q. Didn't Tetra Tech send radioactive soil to the wrong landfill in Pittsburgh?**

A. The Pittsburgh landfill and most other landfills have a radiation monitor that sets off an alarm if a truck with too high a level of radiation tries to drive in. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) inspected Hunters Point last spring and this summer to review radiation cleanup practices. The NRC inspection report is online and I have a copy here. As you see, it addressed this issue and found no concerns related to radioactive soil going the wrong landfill. For more information related to Tetra Tech's license, contact Diane Scenci at 610-337-5330.

**Q. I see dust coming from the Navy and from Lennar. What are you doing to stop this?**

A. The Navy and the developer are both required to follow dust control measures. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ("Air District") already has an inspector who goes to the Hunters Point neighborhood every day to do unannounced inspections. In response to community concerns, EPA has recently begun doing unannounced inspections in addition to the routine inspections we have been doing with other agencies for years. We are now working together with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) inspectors to monitor dust and truck traffic across the board, not just radioactive waste. The Navy has recently improved its system to better control dust and to ensure trucks carrying any materials are covered. The Navy has increased internal checks, bought better sweeping equipment, improved coordination among contractors, and increased contract requirements to ensure dust control. If

you have any more questions for the Air District, please call John Marvin, the head of enforcement, at 415-749-5190.

**Q. I heard that this summer the Navy took lead contaminated soil to a landfill that is not supposed to receive hazardous waste. What happened?**

A. The Navy hired Arcadis to transport waste from Hunters Point for the year. In June, 2014, Arcadis took lead-containing soil to the Keller Canyon landfill, which normally should only accept non-hazardous waste. Arcadis discovered the problem a few days later and reported it to the Navy and the landfill management immediately. The landfill immediately notified the county department that oversees the landfill permit from CalRecycle. The landfill also safely contained the soil and restricted access to protect workers and the public. One week later, Arcadis moved the soil to an appropriate hazardous waste landfill at Buttonwillow. It also removed and safely disposed of the soil under that pile at Keller Canyon to a depth of 1 foot and did confirmation sampling to make sure no lead-contaminated soil was left behind.

**Q. Could the residents have breathed lead contaminated soil?**

A. There was no human or environmental exposure to this lead-containing soil: Arcadis covered the trucks when they transported the soil. They use the same procedures to secure the soil during transport whether it is considered hazardous or not. The landfill placed the contaminated soil in a remote part of its operation and did not move it after initial placement.

**Q. What is EPA doing to stop this from happening again?**

A. Though the soil was not considered hazardous by EPA standards, EPA stayed in close contact with the Navy on this issue to confirm that:

1 - The contractor's procedures are improved to prevent future reoccurrence: Arcadis has done a root cause analysis and implemented additional checks in its standard operating procedures to prevent the same mistake from happening again. I have personally inspected the new labelling system twice to make sure that it is working properly.

2 – The Navy's reviews have confirmed that no similar incident occurred before: Arcadis has also checked all the soil it has transported from Hunters Point during its entire contract period and has not discovered any similar issues.

**Q. Will you punish the Navy and/or Arcadis?**

A. Our first priority is compliance, to make sure that no harm has come to public health and the environment and to make sure this doesn't happen again. Arcadis is preparing a report on its internal investigation, and when it is final, the Navy will provide it to EPA and the other environmental agencies. We will review it and decide on any further actions then.

**Q. How can you let the Navy leave contamination at the Shipyard, and then let the City build condos over that. People moving in will be exposed, and that's not safe!**

A. The Navy is cleaning up the property to a level that is safe for its intended use. For future residential use, we require the highest standard. The Navy has removed or treated all the worst

areas of contamination. In some areas, low levels of contamination are protected by a “durable cover,” which could mean asphalt, building foundation, or a 2 foot thick layer of dirt. In areas where we might see gases, the developer would be required to put in engineering controls that would protect people inside buildings. Finally, a risk management plans and restrictions on the deed would prohibit any future owners from tampering with these barriers. Environmental agencies will do inspections after construction to make sure these barriers stay in place.

**Q. Why are you not giving a public comment period on the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) documents? It sounds like you’re trying to shut the public out of decision-making.**

A. We did have extensive public involvement on the Records of Decisions (RODs), which set the cleanup actions and cleanup levels. All the FOST documents do is to summarize confirmation that the Navy did what the ROD required. The public already commented on the substance, which is the cleanup decisions.

**Q. If we don’t like the transfer documents (e.g. FOST, RMP, CRUP), will you revise them based on our comments? Or are these backroom deals that you will try to shove down our throats because you don’t care what the community thinks?**

A. The City is hosting a series of four or five public meetings over the next few months to present the transfer documents and receive input. Anyone is welcome to attend these. The City is in charge of that process, and my understanding is that the transfer needs approval by a Commission, which will hear comments from the public. For more information on the City process, please contact Ethan Warsh at (415) 749-2577.

**Q. In Parcel A, a monitor was not working for 4 months. We got exposed to asbestos. The BAAQMD gave only a pathetic \$500K fine. EPA didn’t do any enforcement at all. How can we trust you now?**

A. We have learned from that experience and increased the level of oversight. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (“Air District”) has an inspector assigned to the Hunters Point area that also checks every day that the monitors are working properly. If you have any more questions for the Air District, please call John Marvin, the head of enforcement, at 415-749-5190.

**Q. The development plan for gentrification is bad for this community. The City and developer just want to make a lot of money and drive out the long term residents and businesses.**

A. Many agencies are involved at the Hunters Point naval shipyard. The City, not EPA, is in charge of land use decisions. EPA’s role is to make sure that any development at the former naval shipyard is done in a way that protects public health and the environment. The City’s Office of Community Infrastructure and Investment hosts regular public meetings. Ethan Warsh at (415) 749-2577 can tell you when and where they are held so you can express your opinion.

**Q. Why isn’t the cleanup and new development giving jobs to local residents?**

A. EPA isn't in charge of hiring decisions, but we have given a Brownfields Job Training grant to Hunters Point Family to provide certified training to adults in the Bayview Hunters Point community in environmental cleanup, as well as other professional skills to support their students' long-term success. Training sessions will be offered through 2016. If you are interested in signing up for the training, please contact Melody Daniel, Hunters Point Family, at (415) 822-8894. For more information on EPA's Job Training program, contact Nova Blazej at 415.972.3846.

**Q. Why didn't you tell us sooner about the meeting? This was way too short notice. You must be trying to hide something.**

A. We do want to hear from all community residents about your concerns. I am sorry if you received your notice late. We'll send them out earlier next time. We welcome your recommendations on how to make future community outreach work better.

**Q. Bring back the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Almost all the other bases have one. Why can't we have one too?**

A. The Navy is the lead on the cleanup, and it runs any Restoration Advisory Board. I believe its most recent Community Involvement Plan did survey around 90 people about various forms of outreach, and the survey respondents did not by and large ask for the RAB again. The Navy will be hosting a community meeting December 3 as an opportunity to hear from local residents. For more information, please call Thomas Macchiarella at 619-532-0987.

**Q. TASC is an outsider group. EPA hires them, so how could they be independent? I don't trust them.**

A. EPA hires TASC and requires that they give technical advice in a neutral, third-party, independent manner in a non-advocacy role.

**Q. I have local knowledge of Hunters Point that no outsider contractors could possibly have. Why don't you pay us to give technical assistance?**

A. Anyone can contact TASC if they are interested in joining the pool of potential Technical Assistance Providers. You can send your resume to Miranda, and she has a flyer about the process.

**Q. Why can't Hunters Point have another TAG grant?**

A. Anyone at any time can send a "letter of intent" to EPA. EPA has given over a half dozen TAG grants in Hunters Point and many more nationwide. We have heard many of them complain about the administrative burdens for a small amount of funds. In addition, as you know all Federal Agencies are facing budget cuts, and EPA's funds for TAG grants are severely cut. We will respect any request we receive, and I also want to be honest about the potential limits that are beyond our control.

**Q. Lily Lee, you were responsible for the Kettleman EJ Assessment, which said that there's no EJ problem at Kettleman. How can we trust that you won't betray this community too?**

A. The EJ Assessment was Region 9's first attempt to use a 2004 guidance document to inform the permit process. We received a lot of feedback on the EJ Assessment, and we learned a lot from that process. It has never been finalized and is now out of date. But we're here to talk about Hunters Point, so let's get back to that.

**Q. I'm worried that the cleanup of Yosemite Slough will create a bad smell.**

A. EPA is studying ways to address that problem.